

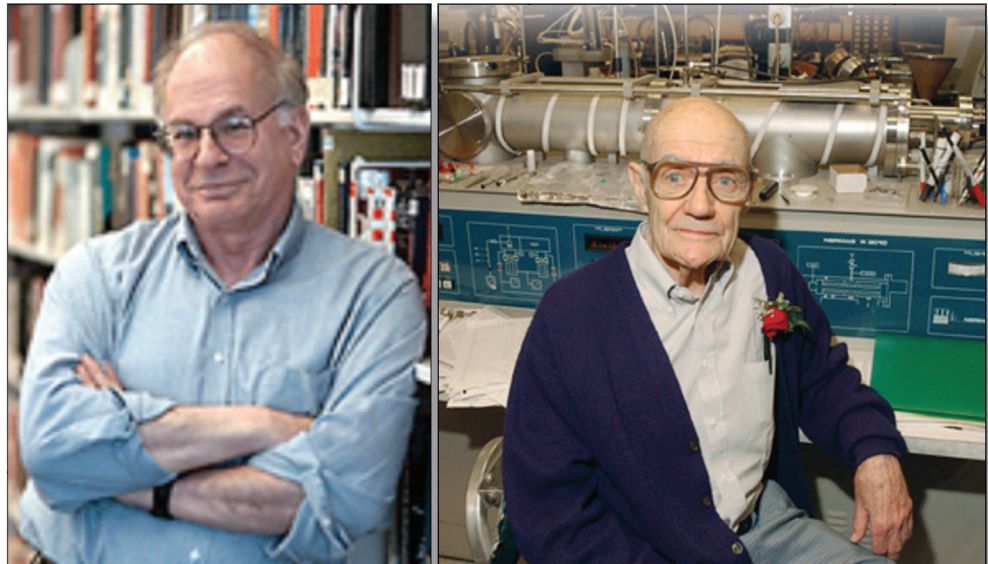


Air Force Research Laboratory|AFRL

Science and Technology for Tomorrow's Air and Space Force

Success Story

AFOSR HELPS FUND TWO 2002 NOBEL LAUREATES



Building on its legacy of funding Nobel Prize-winning scientists, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) recently added two additional laureates, Dr. Daniel Kahneman (pictured left) and Dr. John Fenn (pictured right), to its list of distinguished researchers. For the past 50 years, AFOSR has identified, early on, a significant number of researchers who have gone on to win Nobel Prizes in their respective fields. With the addition of Drs. Fenn and Kahneman to that list, AFOSR has enhanced a legacy of Nobel Prize-winning research that results in world-class scientific contributions that support the Air Force's mission of supremacy in the air and on the battlefield.



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Accomplishment

Dr. Kahneman, of Princeton University, is one of the winners of the Nobel Prize in economic sciences and Dr. John Fenn, of Virginia Commonwealth University, shared the Nobel Prize in chemistry. AFOSR has sponsored 48 Nobel Prize researchers since 1955; 45 were funded before they received the prize.

Background

AFOSR began funding Dr. Kahneman in 1971 when the Life Sciences Directorate supported his groundbreaking work on human perception, attention, and decision making. Dr. Kahneman studied the determinants of human choice in risky situations with psychologist Amos Twersky.

Dr. Kahneman and Mr. Twersky's research shows that a person's decisions depend on how the person frames or describes the decision problem, and this dependence results in decisions that deviate in predictable ways from the rational choice strategy. This research directly supported one of the long-standing goals of the directorate for advancement in improved human performance.

Dr. John Fenn also began his relationship with AFOSR in the early 1970s when AFOSR funded his work on molecules seeded in atomic beams. AFOSR continued to support Dr. Fenn during the 1980s, while he worked at Yale University, with several contracts dealing with molecular collision processes.

Dr. Fenn used these studies and other associated systems to research fundamental chemical reaction dynamics, which substantiated the Nobel Prize for chemistry for Herschbach, Lee, and Polanyi in 1986. Dr. Fenn received the 2002 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work in electrospray mass spectroscopy that grew out of his experience and expertise from earlier molecular research.

Additional information

To receive more information about this or other activities in the Air Force Research Laboratory, contact TECH CONNECT, AFRL/XPTC, (800) 203-6451 and you will be directed to the appropriate laboratory expert. (03-OSR-10)